

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1913.

TAX REFORM IMPERATIVE.

One hundred and thirty-two thousand one hundred and sixty dollars will be added to the personal taxable values in Norfolk County as a result of the investigation of the grand jury which has been in session there for the last few weeks. The examination of the personal property books of the commissioners of the revenue has yielded that additional source of revenue to the State. The tax-dodgers are still being ferreted out and brought to book; it was no idle threat of Auditor of Public Accounts Moore's when he declared at the outset that the tax-evaders and the taxpayers who had mistakenly under-assessed themselves would have to come to account. He proclaimed war, and in county after county and city after city his dread summons has been read, so that, whether their original returns were made in fraud or mistake, the under-assessed and the non-assessed have turned into the State treasury thousands upon thousands of dollars that would have lain in private pockets had there been in the office of Auditor of Public Accounts a less determined and a less courageous man.

The people who in taxation have done the things they ought not to have done and left undone the things they ought to have done are startled because Auditor Moore has ordered that all taxable property must hereafter be assessed for taxation according to law. Herebefore, the tax laws have been putty statutes to be molded to suit individual desire. People have lately been rushing in crowds to invest in nontaxable securities, altogether forgetting that such action, as a temporary expedient for evading the assessor, is valueless. Even in Richmond it has been estimated that in two months \$100,000.00 has been invested for the purpose of getting around the taxgatherer. Nontaxable bonds have shown a marked advance in less than a month—a certain sign of unusual demand.

Probably no surer sign of the belief that Mr. Moore is in earnest could be seen than the facts stated above—those relating to the advance in nontaxable securities and the haste to invest in them; comments the Lynchburg Advance, declaring that our publication of these facts, "itself is a service" and adding that "The Times-Dispatch is to be commended for its work in stimulating a more efficient enforcement of our tax laws."

The Virginia Gazette is of the opinion that—
"State Auditor C. Lee Moore is 'on his job.' Just how unpopular he becomes depends upon just how honest the public is when they solemnly swear that they will pay their taxes. No longer will the man who enjoys a fine income sit complacently on the lid of his money box while the poor fellow who has to be treated to a few months behind prison bars, for Auditor Moore has no right to question a law, its justice or its fairness; it is only his duty to enforce it. Virginia owes him a debt of gratitude for seeing that her tax laws are given their true meaning. The tax dodger will hate him like 'pizen' but the real men of Virginia will applaud his course and, when the time comes, reward him."
The Gazette adds that "the tax laws of Virginia may be old and antiquated and burdensome, but the best way to get better laws is to enforce the bad ones," while the Lynchburg Advance is ready to agree with The Times-Dispatch that the system of taxation is an unfair and unsatisfactory system, and that it should be reformed. The best way to bring about a reform is to enforce the laws. Then, and then only, are their defects brought out, and the demand for reform becomes intense enough to result in action.

That is the gist of the whole business. No man's fault-finding insistence that the tax laws be executed, Auditor Moore has vastly accelerated tax reform in Virginia. The people, through their enforcement, are being brought to see that the tax laws are unsatisfactory and inequitable. The honest taxpayer is being made to bear burdens that the dishonest taxpayer has escaped from his share of the common load. Subjects are being double taxed, that ought to bear single taxation only, and subjects that ought to be taxed are not taxed at all. The returns from the income tax in certain proportion constitute individual confessions of fraud and dishonesty, rich men of the earth have become paupers on paper. The bond proprietor of hundreds of follow fields tries to huddle behind the farmer of few acres; the stout business man seeks to hide himself in the obscure shadow of the little merchant who has no estate shrink into insignificance, and the honest man is being made to bear the burden of the dishonest taxpayer's evasion and personal property vanishes quite.

Tax reform can be delayed no longer in Virginia. The voice of justice must prevail in the next General Assembly, and the banking of the course must be abandoned. The people have been in a short season that the General Assembly of 1912 deliberately refused to give them a square deal in taxation, and they intend to elect legislators this time who can construct a tax system that will be just and equitable, and not a shelter for the deceitful and the dishonest.

GOLD SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AMERICA.

One of the significant features of the financial situation during the past week has been the large shipments of American gold to Brazil, Argentina and other countries of South America. These nations have had credits in Europe and England upon which they wished to realize. Because of the demand for gold abroad, arising from unusual expansion in credit operations and the war in the Balkans, London bankers decided to liquidate their South American indebtedness by transferring credits in this country. Because of our large exports, especially of food products and raw materials to Great Britain and Europe, it is generally considered that we have a large credit balance abroad. It is estimated, however, that the interest on American securities held abroad and ocean freight charges paid to foreign ship owners, together with the expenditures of American travelers and the funds carried back by returning immigrants annually, exceeds \$50,000,000, and largely, if not entirely, offsets any indebtedness of England and Europe to us. On the other hand, our trade with South America has expanded to a remarkable degree within recent years, but imports have greatly exceeded exports, and the trade balance against the United States has annually grown larger. This balance is collected for South American countries through their European banking connections, and under the existing conditions of international exchange London has directed us to liquidate by shipments of gold.

The lesson to be learned from this anomalous situation is apparent. American manufacturers and exporters should develop a market for our products in South America. Every natural advantage is in favor of our control of these constantly growing markets. The opening of the Panama Canal means a special opportunity to Southern manufacturers of cotton goods, iron and steel products, furniture, and a long list of other commodities. Our failure to secure a strong foothold in these countries has been apparent for several years. Primarily it is due to the lack of the proper shipping and banking facilities. In addition to these causes, American manufacturers have seemingly been unwilling to adapt their goods to the peculiar tastes and wants of South American purchasers and consumers. Already several of our larger financial institutions have sent representatives to these countries for the purpose of studying conditions and establishing banking connections. The Federal Bureau of Manufacturers has also had a number of its agents in the principal South American countries investigating business and trade opportunities. With the opening of the Panama Canal better shipping facilities will also be available. American business men and manufacturers, and especially those of the South, should therefore give the prospects offered by South American markets careful consideration and should avail themselves of the opportunities there, which should naturally accrue to the benefit of this country, but which have already been largely prompted by the sagacity and foresight of trade and industrial interests abroad.

THE EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

From the point of view of Southern development by far the most important gathering to be held in Richmond in 1913 is the Conference for Education in the South. This will last from April 15 to 18 and will probably draw some 2,000 educators from the Southern States. The fundamental value of such a gathering at this period of our development cannot be too greatly emphasized. It is the answer to the challenge made to our civilization in the statement that Virginia is forty-first in education in the Union and that the South furnishes the last thirteen States out of the forty-eight. No other question before this region is of equal gravity or significance.

In a democracy, an educated citizenship is the foundation of every part of progress and prosperity. It is the beginning of material wealth as well as of culture, enlightenment and happiness. Education is no longer a remote prerogative of the wealthy, an adornment for leisure, and a luxury for the few. Education means increased knowledge that results in greater wealth. Scientific education, industrial education, vocational education—these are some of the practical shapes in which the modern State and city attempts to answer the problems of providing a higher standard of living and a broader life to its citizens. Not only the professional man and the scholar should feel interested in this conference. The farmer, the manufacturer, the tradesman, the statesman, must perceive that their future depends upon what is done to elevate the masses of men and train them into useful and productive citizens.

For this reason Richmond should be the site of the opportunity presented to her as host for such a gathering. Anybody should be forthcoming for the expenses of entertainment for meetings, for speakers, and for the concrete exhibits that will make the conference a success. It should not be left to the school authorities to answer these demands. For the sake of the city, the State of Virginia, and for the South, we urge the active assistance and co-operation of all classes in advancing the cause of education. In this conference resides the answer to all our present and future problems, whether they be of government, racial differences, industrial progress, economic depression, or moral culture.

WHAT THE CONVICTS CAN DO.

Agitation for the abolition of prison contract labor continues a dominant note for discussion in the State press. The issue is one phase of the question which has not received sufficient consideration, and that is, what disposition shall be made of convict labor when it shall have been removed from competition with free labor? To end the contract system is to deprive the State of a substantial source of revenue and to impose upon the State at the same time a correspondingly greater burden for the upkeep of its prisoners. If a largely increased financial charge is not to fall upon the taxpayers, some system for utilizing the earning power of the convicts would have to be put into effect.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, viewing the end of prison contract labor in the Missouri State Penitentiary, well states the case.

"Light-heartedly to decree the abolition of the objectionable contract system, in response to planks in the platforms of both parties and a strong public demand, is one thing—a very easy thing. To devise a satisfactory substitute is quite another thing. The latter undoubtedly will involve considerable expenditure for a time. Considerable experimentation will be necessary before practical results of value are achieved. Anxious effort devoted to it will not bring much public acclaim. But the problem must be faced, and demands serious thought and attention."

Industries are conducted on State account "in some very successful prisons." The manufacture of sisal into binder twine and other cordage is a prospering industry in some States. Hundreds of convicts throughout the country are employed in the manufacture of furniture, including rattan furniture, pearl buttons, shirts and other garments on the State account system, by which is meant manufacture chiefly for use in State institutions. "With care in marketing such products and abstention from price cutting, officials avoid offensive competition with free labor," the Post-Dispatch finds. The change from the old system to the new has been facilitated in some prisons by continuing on the State account plan for a period some of the industries formerly controlled by contractors. A number of States are ordering outdoor employment for convicts and buying large acreage for prison farms.

Missouri intends to introduce the New York plan of utilizing convicts to make products required in State institutions and State departments. "Careful planning is necessary to success," it is truly urged. Where a prison farm is established, much of the food needed in asylums and other State institutions could be produced.

There are several possible solutions of the problem in Virginia. The Times-Dispatch suggested a year ago that short-term convicts be put at work on the public roads to construct a State-wide system of improved highways, while the long-term convicts and those of a nature unsuited for the measure of liberty that would be permitted road-workers could be employed within a stockade near a quarry under heavy guard to produce road-building material. On the other hand, the convicts might be divided into two sections—one to work on the public roads and the other to be employed on a large State farm. It might be found necessary to keep a certain per cent of the prison population in shops to manufacture products on the State account. At any rate, something will undoubtedly be found for the hands of the convicts to do in Virginia when they are emancipated from prison contract labor.

BROKEN OFF, BUT WITH A STRING.

Although, according to London and Constantinople dispatches, the Balkan peace negotiations have been "formally broken off" and the armistice is denounced, both the allies and the Turks have cast a peace anchor to the windward. They have been broken off with a string to them, and the string has been left in the hands of the powers. It is fairly evident that each side dreads resumption of hostilities. It is also fairly evident that each counts confidently upon the powers pulling the string for peace, and it is inconceivable, after all that has transpired, that these will fail to do so.

Sir Edward Grey practically forecast that such would be the manipulation of the string in due season, if essential, when he advised the delegates of the concert, in effect, to keep cool.

The optimistic view which cable advices tell us is still taken by many, despite the official rupture, remains fully justified, and for the all-constraining reason that the powers, in greater measure even than the allies or the Turks, cannot afford to chance the outburst which might result from renewal of the conflict.

Having overpassed the crisis of menace of a general European war developing out of the Balkan struggle, it is unthinkable that the powers would ignore that momentous consideration and court recrudescence of the menace, with its possible fearful eventual evolution into an international death grapple, by not forcing peace, if necessary.

It is beyond comprehension that they would not use the string to choke the present belligerents into coming to terms. If a peaceful settlement could not be insured in any other way, or by gentler processes, that apart from the evidence as we have indicated, that for both sides expect them to pull it for peace.

The proceedings of the Hobe Convention at New Orleans were interrupted by the entrance of a brother who called himself Wesley, was clad in blonde hair and pajamas, and announced that he came from heaven. For the benefit of the weary brotherhood, we state that what he meant was that he visited Richmond last summer.

Will the only living ex-President attend the inauguration?

It is time to take a straw vote on whether we want the ground-hog to see his shadow Sunday. It is the peach crop against the coal bill.

Father can smile at the word Christmas now, but he shudders when you say "faster."

Husband and wife cannot serve on the same jury out in Washington. Does the court think they would never agree?

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

A Cabinet Ready Made.
Oh listen here, dear Woodrow.
You should not fret and fret
Concerning the appointment
Of your new Cabinet.
Of course, they are all anxious
To do the thing for you.
To pick out your assistants.
And see the matter through.
But there's no use to worry.
We know where you can find
A cabinet that's ready made.
And willing to be chosen.
Just take this tip, friend Woodrow.
And you need fret no more.
Accept this bunch and take the bunch
Down at our army store.

There's Uncle Ezra Watkins.
Who knows each nation's fate;
Write him a note and get him for
Secretary of State.
He's Peters in a fighter.
And knows what fighting's for.
You could get him, we know, for your
Secretary of War.
The agriculture bureau
Should go to Angus Jones.
Who poses as an expert, but
Has mortgaged all his oxen.
The naval job should be a snap
For Uncle Abner Howe.
He knows a lot about the boats.
He's crossed the lake three times.

The treasury department
Should go to Henry Swank.
He'll count money mighty fast.
He'll work down on our bank.
And he'll tell you a counterfit.
By gosh, or bogus bill.
And he'll deliver a ten-cent piece
When it drops in the till.
Attorney general's a cinch
Give that to old Sam Hank.
He's never lost a line fence suit.
And knows a nunc pro tunc.
Interior department
Old Doctor Hanks confides.
He'll tell every organ.
We've got in our insides.

These fellows are experts.
That hang around the store.
They'll all take the positions.
So you need fret no more.

According to Uncle Abner.
Some of them Roosevelt telegrams
Is so pointed that the telegraph
Companies will have to string barb wire
Along the poles to carry 'em.
It might not be quite so stylish,
But I would just as soon be kicked
To death by a seven-dollar mule as
To be blown into the eternal here
By a ten-dollar-dollar forty-candle
Power automobile.

Some fellows blow their money on
Gold bricks and Bohemian outs and
Others start newspapers.
When you have got a guest who
Keeps bragging how honest he is, count
the money.

A fellow that can call every bartender
in town by his first name will
never cut much of a swath in Wall Street.

Our town has been having all kinds
of time—standard, sun, fast, railroad
and some even declare that a
time of a minute should be included in the list.
Now a municipal whistle has
instigated, and as this is going to blow
on standard time it has been suggested
that all clocks be turned back and
that this be adopted by all. The
jewelers are opposed to the plan as they
claim that clocks will never run as
fast when running on slow time.

Two-step whiskey is a very popular
brand in our town just now. You
step in and get a drink, then step
out and get pelted with stones.
There's a fellow has got tonsillitis,
the best thing to cure it is a nice soft
sleeve wrapped around his neck with
a woman's arm in it.

VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS

Restoring the Bible.
In Richmond the city school board
has ordered that selections from the
Bible be read daily in the schools to
all the public schools. This is a distinct
and long step forward in several
respects. About forty years ago
the Bible practically was ordered out
of the Richmond schools, and there
supposed to be no concession to the
prejudices and feeling of the Catholic
and Hebrew population. The question
was carried into local politics and the
controversy over it has been bitter.
Even a suggestion of the Chicago plan,
which is to have representatives of
the Catholics, Hebrews and Protestants
get together and agree on the
sections and passages to be read.
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We Need a Tax Commission in Connection with the Separation Plan.

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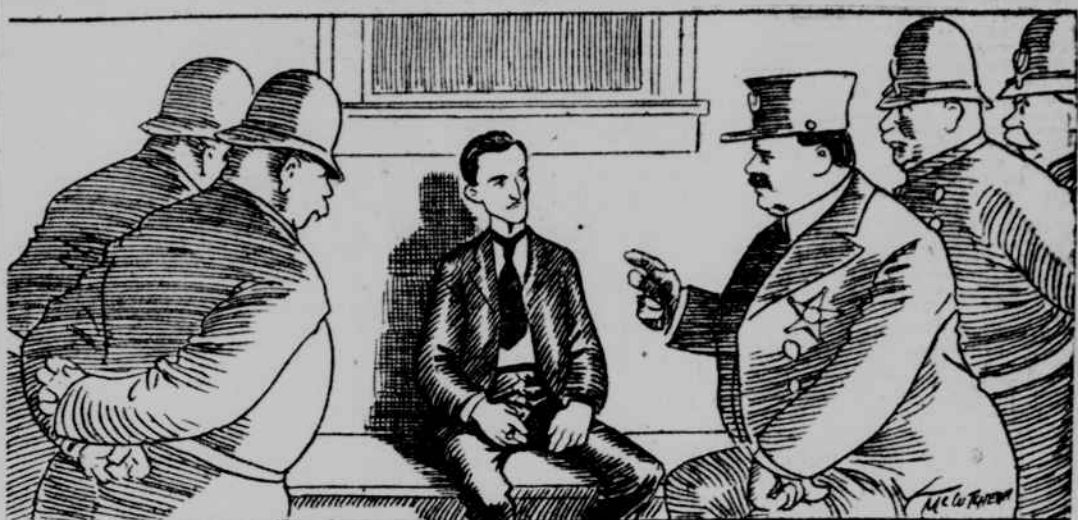
AUTO BANDITS.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



As we imagined them.



As they are.

THE WORLD AT LARGE

Motto for a Home.

This home is dedicated to good will.
It grew out of love. The two heads
of the household were called together
by a power higher than they. To its
decrees they are obedient. Every tone
of the voice every thought of their
being is subdued to that service. They
desire to be worthy of their high calling,
as ministers of that grace. They know
their peace will go unbroken only for
a little time. And often they suspect
that sort of peace is a false peace, a
peace that is not theirs. They cannot
permit so much as one hour of that
brief unity to be touched by scorn or
malice. The world's judgments have
been gathered together and as a result
they come seeking to continue the
harmony which these two have won
are ever welcome. The rich are wel-
come, so they come simply. The poor
are welcome for they have already
learned friendliness through buffet-
ing. Youth is welcome, for it brings the
joy which these two would learn. Age
is welcome, for it will teach them
tenderness.—Collier's Weekly.

Cat Puts Out Light of Town.

Winsted, Conn.—A Maltese cat put
Winsted in darkness for three hours
one night, but paid the death penalty
by doing so. All street lights went
out simultaneously and as a result
pedestrians who were out in the rain
stumbled and fell in dark streets.
Superintendent Henry Skinner of the
Winsted Gas Company, which also
owns the electric light plant, and the
linemen were called out to find the
cause of the trouble, but three hours
elapsed before they found it. In the
extreme north end of the town, a cat
climbed a lamp pole and had
fallen or jumped on the terminals,
causing a short circuit.—Municipal
Journal.

Awful English!

Take the ubiquitous and awful word
"proposition." Used at first in business
circles and perhaps needed there,
it has waxed so arrogant that you hear
it on every side, wherever two or three
are gathered together. "That's a
different proposition" is a sickeningly
familiar to the jaded ear, and may be
now taken to refer to anything from a
comparison of the beauty of women to
a long and enthusiastic devotion to the
cause to read with full appreciation the
talk of the gentlemen of the press,
whose duty it is to keep us posted con-
cerning the national game. For vigor
and vitality it is often admirable, and
it surely possesses that indescribable
but unmistakable sense of humor
which is one of our proudest American
assets. At the same time, it is not quite
the English of sobriety and sweet savor
which those who know regard as best
worth while.—The Bellman.

Names for Goose and Gander.

A Boston judge has just decided that
hereafter women granted divorces in his
court shall not be allowed to resume the
husband's name and the title of
"Miss." Within the year, also, a judge
in Oklahoma similarly ruled.
The Western jurist declared "that
it is due to society in general and to
men in particular that if a woman has
been married she should not masquerade
as a maiden."

The Boston Legal Decision Runs in like vein.

If a woman has been mar-
ried and divorced, it does not seem
right that she should resume the title
right that is associated with an unmarried
woman. A man wishing to make a
woman his wife should surely know
about her past matrimonial experiences.
If the woman is regarded by the com-
munity in which she lives as unmarried,
a man may very easily be deceived."

Why all these elaborate precautions
for the benefit of men? Society has
never offered women any safeguard
whatever against the matrimonial
history of the other sex. How shall a
woman know whether the man whom
she is about to make her husband has
been divorced or not? How shall she
even know that he is still legally
bound to another? There is never so

much as a wedding ring to indicate his
condition. Divorced, married or sin-
gle, he enjoys the unchanging title
of "Mr." And the woman who would
wed him has to take her chances on
his matrimonial state.
Why shouldn't he take equal chances?
—To-Day Magazine.

Woodrow Wilson's Daughter.

Every day we see some little sign
that makes us think that Woodrow
Wilson will make a great President.
Here is one. Miss Eleanor Wilson,
his daughter, is attending the Penn-
sylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and
through her efforts, she has had ruled
out of the academy the turkey trot,
bunny-hug and all forms of rag-tag
dancing.
What has that got to do with it,
you ask. Just this, that the influence
of the daughter is simply the result
of the true and noble life that held
away in the Wilson home. It is a
sign that he believed in a simple,
clean, righteous, high-toned life, and
that sort of belief is a President of
the United States is greater than all
the platforms ever written to carry
his campaign on. That little act of
his daughter tells as much as any
speech he ever made.

The Oldest Bride.

There is record of a French woman
who undertook her first venture in
matrimony at the age of 125, but on
this side of the Atlantic it is safe to say
that the oldest bride or bride-elect is
Senora Elisalada, of Los Angeles,
who, in spite of the opposition of
her grandchildren, is determined to
marry again at the age of 105. The man
of her choice, Placido Leon, a mere
youth of eighty, has secured a license,
and according to the dispatches the
marriage will take place in due course.
Senora Elisalada told an interviewer
that Senor Leon had been courting
her for fifty years, ever since her
husband died, and that she had finally
concluded to surrender.

No Danger of Mob Law in Louisa.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch.
Sir,—I notice in your issue of the
20th, an article headed, "G. W. Crosby,
Prisoner in Louisa Tragedy, in Danger
of Mob Law."
From the heading and context of this
article it appears that the good people
of Louisa County would resort to violence
should Crosby be confined in the
county jail. I beg to state that there
is no foundation for any such insinua-
tion against the citizens of Louisa
County. So far as I have been able to
ascertain, not even a rumor of violence
to Crosby has been circulated. Henry
Shipp and Beasley Cosby, both under
indictment as principals in the murder
of Clyde McGee, along with G. W.
Cosby, are out on bail and are living
unmolested in the neighborhood of
the commission of the crime. The
publication is resented by the law-
abiding citizens of Louisa County as an
unwarranted attack upon their respect-
ful law and order. The writer will
state further, that the removal of
Crosby to Richmond, as suggested for
safety to Crosby, is neither at his
instance, request nor suggestion, and
that he has never been confined in
the matter or his views requested.

W. C. HIBB,

Commonwealth's Attorney of
Louisa County.

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